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Remarks

The Applicant has carefully read and reviewed the Office Action mailed January 18, 2005, and the references cited therewith. Claims 11-19 were allowed. Claims 1, 2, and 9 were rejected. Claims 3-8 were objected to. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-19 are still pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 2, and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ohata et al (US 6,469,978) in view of Ko (US2004/0073832).

Claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of previously objected to claim 3. Claims 2 and 9 depend from amended claim 1.

Conclusion

As amended, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 2 and 4-9 are allowable as dependent claims depending from an allowable independent claim and providing additional limitations thereto. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and/or objection of claims 1, 2, and 4-9 is respectfully requested.

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Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is requested.

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